

## BOOK REVIEWS

PHILIP V. WELLS. 2000. **The Manzanitas of California: also of Mexico and the World.** (ISBN: 0-933994-22-2, hbk.). Originally published by the author, Department of Botany, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045, U.S.A. (**Orders:** check or money orders by mail to Dr. Anke M. Wells, 4638 Bluebird Lane, McLouth, Kansas 66054-3109). \$60.00 incl. p&h (plus sales tax for Kansas residents), 151 pp., 8 1/2" × 11".

Published by the author in 2000, this limited edition book is based on more than 40 years of field and herbarium studies of *Arctostaphylos* by the late Philip V. Wells (1928–2004), Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas. His lifelong interest in manzanitas started in the late 1950s while working at the University of California in Santa Barbara and culminated in this 151-page work, the most up-to-date and complete treatise of the genus. The book provides keys, synonyms, descriptions, and distributions for 61 species. Of the 150 illustrations, 146 are published for the first time, including digital scans of nascent inflorescences and endocarp SEMs of all 61 species of manzanitas, a truly ground-breaking work. The attractive hardcover book measures 8.5 × 11 inches and is printed on acid-free paper and bound with red Kivar 7 and gold lettering. Approximately 200 copies are available.—Craig C. Freeman, Curator (R.L. McGregor Herbarium), Associate Scientist (Kansas Biological Survey), University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66047, U.S.A.

DAVID YETMAN. 2007. **The Great Cacti: Ethnobotany & Biogeography.** (Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Studies in Natural History) (ISBN 978-0816524310, hbk.). University of Arizona Press, 355 S. Euclid Ave., Suite 103, Tucson, Arizona 85719, U.S.A. (**Orders:** [www.uapress.arizona.edu](http://www.uapress.arizona.edu), [orders@uapress.arizona.edu](mailto:orders@uapress.arizona.edu), 1-800-426-3797). \$59.95, 297 pp., 8 3/4" × 11 1/4".

*The Great Cacti* reviews the more than one hundred species of columnar cacti, with detailed discussions of those that have been the most beneficial to humans or are the most spectacular. The book is divided into three principal parts. The first covers the great cacti in general and looks at their uses, ecology, distribution, their origin, evolution, and taxonomy. The second, and largest of the three parts, presents the plants by genera, beginning with capstone species and following with other members of the genus. Some genera are grouped by geographical region, others are not. The third part explores where the hot spots for cacti are. He has not listed sites where he has not personally visited but discusses what he considers to be the most impressive, accessible locations where one can see them in their native lands.

Yetman focuses particularly on northwestern Mexico and the southwestern United States and South America to some degree. He examines the role of each species in human society, describing how cacti have provided food, shelter, medicine, even religiously significant hallucinogens. Yetman shows that the great cacti have facilitated the development of native culture in hostile environments, yielding their products with no tending necessary. He draws upon his experiences and research for earlier books and demonstrates the importance of these plants to the native peoples in these regions. The ethnobotanical uses are listed with each species, generally in a small portion of the first section.

Illustrated by over 300 color photos and color maps, *The Great Cacti* is a marvelous book, one which I enjoyed just paging through. The use of color does not overwhelm the wealth of scientific research he displays throughout his narration. Recommended for public libraries, interested students, and researchers on many levels.

David Yetman is a research social scientist at the Southwest Center of the University of Arizona and host of the television series *The Desert Speaks*, produced by KUAT Television in Tucson and distributed nationally by American Public Television. His books include *The Organ Pipe Cactus* and several books about native peoples and plants. He is co-editor of *Gentry's Río Mayo Plants: The Tropical Deciduous Forest and Environs of Northwest Mexico*, also published by the University of Arizona Press.—Gary L. Jennings, Librarian, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.